

PARIS FASHIONS

Gowns with Short Skirts the Latest Style



White Voile de Ninon and Lace Gown Over Pink Silk Lining
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Voile de Soie Gown with Flowered Tunic
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Straw Hat with Taffeta Bows
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Pale Blue Cloth Costume with Black Moire Collar
Maison Bechoff David
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Embroidered Net Gown with Pleated Silk Ruffles
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Embroidered Ecru Tussor Gown
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BY A. T. ASHMORE.

MORE and more eccentric are the fashions exhibited as the summer season advances, and the woman who faces the problem of a becoming, smart and up to date summer wardrobe has a harder task as regards clothes than she has ever yet been given. Every woman wants to be fashionably gowned; she also wants to be attractive, and how can two such absolutely diverse feats be accomplished to-day? The very latest news from Paris is that the skirts shall not be more than two yards wide around the ankles, and that any fulness of the skirt shall be kept in place by a broad strap or band, so that the rule two yards, and only two yards, in width shall be maintained. To quote from a letter written by one of fashion's leaders after a visit to the leading dressmaking establishments in Paris: "The aeroplane evidently dominates the dress of this season, and every woman is dressed as though she were meditating a trip in a flying machine. Grotesquely narrow skirts are held down by a broad band for fear they might blow up when speeding through the air, and all enveloping hats are worn down over the ears, so low that the brims rest on the shoulders and make the wearing of a collar superfluous and uncomfortable." A more hideous caricature than is thus presented was surely never seen.

And these clothes are really and truly worn, and worn in the street. Small wonder is it that both dressmakers and customers spend hours and hours evolving designs that, while they may indicate the lines of the eccentric styles, have nothing else in common with them.

Short Skirt Popular.

The short skirt is far more popular this year than it has ever been, and not only are street costumes on the severe tailor-made order made in this style, but the most elaborate of afternoon and evening gowns as well. Very smart and attractive and extremely practical are these same short skirts, but they lack absolutely the charm, grace and elegance of the long skirt and are, in spite of being temporarily fashionable, quite incongruous for an elaborate gown. Practical they are for shopping, for travelling, for motor excursions, and at all times possible for the woman who does not own her own carriage or motor and who prefers walking to going about in public conveyances, but their very practicability and usefulness mark them as not appropriate for any other use, whereas the long skirt makes even the far simpler gowns appropriate for more formal occasions. There are short evening gowns, dancing frocks, as they were first called, but now made for older women who do not dance, and in consequence a ballroom loses more than half of its at-

tractive appearance, for even the loudest in praise of the fashion admit that with a low cut waist a skirt of ankle length or so short that it clears the ground by two or three inches is almost invariably unbecoming. The fashion plates of the nineteenth century, which are so often laughed at and condemned, furnish perfect specimens of many of the gowns of the present day, and it is to be earnestly hoped that a revolution in the styles will soon take place.

Foulard, always a most desirable material for summer, is now in great favor, combined with other materials or made up by itself. Waist and overskirt are in one, with an underskirt with flounce, or waist, overskirt and flounce, are in one, the flounce or lower part of the skirt fastened onto the band around the ankles. Fulness—and, sad to relate, there generally is fulness at the top of the skirt—is gathered into the same band, but is not allowed to flare above the band, and this is where a clever dressmaker succeeds and a poor one fails, for if there can be any mitigation of the offence it is in regulating the fulness and the width of the band, and by so doing not destroying all lines of the figure. Both the plain and figured designs are fashionable in silk, and when the bordered silks are used the material is most cleverly draped, so that the border serves as trimming. The bordered silks, unless some rare bargain is secured, are more expensive than the others, but, be it remembered, that they require no other trimming, and furthermore, if every penny must be counted, a much less expensive silk may be bought and trimmed with fancy ribbon, giving all the effect of the woven border.

Once again the high waisted styles are to be noticed, and the veritable Empire

gown, which it was so confidently stated could never be permitted, is more than realized in many of the very latest gowns exhibited. With the high but loosely corseted bust, the narrow ribbon girdle outlining the waist, the scant short skirt and the minute puffed sleeves, the so-called picturesque model evening gown is here to be dealt with by conservative taste and public opinion. Fortunately, as has already been said, the fashion cannot be carried out without the services of an exceptionally clever and consequently expensive dressmaker, and this will put the price beyond the majority of those who buy carefully. No truly economical woman feels she can risk a failure, and when she is not absolutely sure the style

will be smart and becoming she chooses another in preference. The robe gowns made up over a perfect fitting princess slip are said to be the safest to experiment with in following after this style, as there is not so much expense involved.

New Lingerie Gowns.

Lingerie gowns, made short, are very smart this season and are much less eccentric than many of the others, and, while the long skirt of lace and embroidery is effective and becoming, the short skirt, clearing the ground, is so far more practical that the fashion is deservedly popular. The exaggerated styles are not so often repeated in the lingerie gowns. Double skirts and tunics are fashionable, but the pleated gowns with wide entre-

deux and flounces are much smarter. The lining may be white or colored, but as this season there is such a demand for touches of color and color contrasts the colored linings are the more often selected. Then the belt or girdle can match either the lining or, again, be in contrast—anything for variety or change being accepted as the rule this summer. All kinds of hand embroidery and lace are combined in these lingerie gowns, and the number of different kinds that are to be seen in one gown is extraordinary; but the general effect is good, and for those who prefer simple styles there are the most exquisite materials with the most effective laces to choose from and yet be in style.

Flowered muslins, embroidered, plain and fancy linens, and an endless choice in wash materials furnish a rare opportunity for a summer wardrobe this season, and among the many varied ones there are an unusual number that are well adapted to the present eccentric models. Colorings in all wash fabrics

PRACTICAL HINTS FOR HOME DRESSMAKING.

PONGEE or linen costumes can be made on the same lines as serge and cheviot, so far as skirt and coat are concerned, but there are many more models suitable for the two lighter weight materials in the one piece gown. How-

ever, it is much more satisfactory to have the waist and skirt separate, for there are days in midsummer when only a lingerie waist is cool enough, and then, if the weather changes, the coat can easily be put on. The apparently one piece

gown is now so constructed that it has exactly the same effect, for the joining is hidden under the belt or trimming.

All skirts are cut extremely scant, and almost without exception are unbecom-

ing, but by introducing pleats and by having any of the fulness at the upper part most carefully placed so as to obviate the too thick effect, much better results can be obtained. The colored linings are extremely popular, and while the finer qualities are expensive, there are many

grades, so that the cost is not prohibitive. The simpler the design chosen the better, and a coarse embroidered gown will not be half so smart as the absolutely plain one on which more money has been expended for cut and fit than for the em-

brodery. Sleeves are small and must be carefully fitted and placed so that whatever fulness there is at the top gives a becoming line, this when the sleeves are cut separate, for the coat without shoulder seam is one of the newest models of the season.



LINEN OR PONGEE COSTUME.



CERISE LINEN GOWN.



BLUE VOILE DE SOIE GOWN.



GREEN PONGEE COSTUME.



WHITE SERGE COSTUME.



BLACK AND WHITE SERGE COSTUME.

are marvellously beautiful, and when the transparent weaves are used there can be the same color or contrast in the linings, giving absolutely novel effects. For those women who prefer the more severe styles the heavier embroidered or plain linens furnish a delightfully wide field of choice, and colored linens are to be in great demand. The silk linens are especially lovely in color and texture and for midsummer there can be no better material.

For cooler days in summer the white serge costume must be included in the practical outfit, but apart from the difference in material there is no difference between the serge and the plainer linen costume. It can be in two or three pieces, skirt and waist in one and then a coat, but the most practical is the skirt and coat model, with which a separate waist is worn. It must be admitted that the one piece serge gown made perfectly is extremely becoming and smart, but only when made perfectly.